(b) the reasons for not releasing the Time-table by the Railways so far which is normally announced on 1st July every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Railway Time-tables are published once a year and come into effect from the 1st of July. The time-tables of all the Zonal Railways have been released as per schedule.

Qualified drivers in Railways

2212. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of qualified railway drivers suitable for running long distance high speed mail and express trains;

(b) what is the present sanctioned strength of such drivers and their actual availability, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of such drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Departure and arrival of Shramjeevi Express

†2213. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates, during 1st January, 2003 to 15th July, 2003 on which Shramjeevi Express either departed late from Patna/Delhi or got late on the way and arrived New Delhi/Patna late; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The departure/arrival of 2401/2402 Patna-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express from Patna/New Delhi during the period from 1st January, 2003 to 15th July 2003 are given below.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.